

response. The specification has been amended to improve form. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

#### **The Objection to the Abstract**

In item 6 on page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the abstract because it included claim-like language. Changes have been made to the abstract to place it in preferred and better U.S. form for issuance and to resolve the Examiner's objection raised in the Office Action. No new matter has been added.

#### **The Objection to the Drawings**

In item 5 on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to Figure 1 for not including the legend "Prior Art." Applicant provides a proposed drawing correction in red ink for Figure 1 with this response, including an accompanying Letter to the Examiner Requesting Approval of the Changes to the Drawings. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

#### **Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph**

In item 4 on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 30 as being indefinite. Applicant submits that the amendment to claim 30 presented above provides the required definiteness. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection to claim 30 under §112.

#### **Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102**

In items 1-3 on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-34 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Walker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,794,207). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the reasons presented below.

### The Invention

The present invention relates to a "Witness" system that uses electronic data interchange (EDI) to support account settlement and distribution systems among sellers and buyers.

### The Reference

Walker relates to a method and apparatus that facilitates buyer-driven conditional purchase offers (CPOs). In Walker, prospective buyers of goods and services may globally communicate a binding purchase offer through a controller to potential sellers. Sellers search for relevant buyer purchase offers and may bind a buyer to a contract based on the buyer's CPO. See Walker at abstract.

### The Present Claimed Invention Distinguishes Over the Prior Art

Claim 1 of the present invention, as amended, recites "making confirmation documents for each of one or more buyer records, based on a seller record, or records, sent from a seller ... confirming by said seller that the content of said seller record, or records, is in agreement with the content of said documents ... a witness confirming that said documents are accurate, when said agreement is confirmed according to said confirmation means ..."

Usually, when a buyer, such as a grocery store, purchases a large number of goods from a seller over a one-month period and pays for the goods once per month, the buyer consolidates detailed vouchers received with each shipment of goods into a "detailed payment statement." While the payment date and total price may be included in the detailed payment statement, other details are typically omitted, such as delivery date, description of delivered items, unit price, and quantity. Thus, when the seller receives payment, the seller may not be able to determine which delivery vouchers are reflected in the total amount of money received. If, for example, the amount of money paid to the seller does not agree with the total amount invoiced, the seller's accounting representative must confirm transaction details with the buyer, which can be time-consuming.

In one embodiment of the present invention, as shown in Figure 9 of the present application, the buyer creates and sends confirmation documents to the witness system that the buyer wants to have authenticated. The documents are based upon, for example, delivery vouchers received from the seller. The witness system transmits the

documents to the seller, and receives confirmation from the seller that the contents of the documents agree with the content of the delivery vouchers. Upon receiving confirmation from the seller, the witness certifies the documents as being correct and sends notice of the confirmation to both the buyer and the seller. If the witness receives notification from the seller that the documents prepared by the buyer do not agree with the content of the delivery vouchers, the witness sends this information to the buyer and waits for corrected documents from the buyer, such as a correction of price or description of goods. The witness system creates a detailed payment statement based upon the confirmed, registered document data and sends the detailed payment statement to the buyer for confirmation. The buyer then returns the statement to the witness system as a request for funds transfer from, for example, the buyer's bank account to the seller's bank account.

Thus, the witness system of the present invention confirms the correctness of the contents of a document prepared by the buyer by comparing the document with the contents of delivery vouchers prepared by the seller. Further, the witness system provides for the creation of verified, accurate documents, leaving no conflicting items between the two parties, which are used in account settlement processing.

In Walker, a buyer creates a CPO, attaches a user identification, and sends the CPO to the central controller. The central controller authenticates the identity of the buyer and the identity of a seller who wishes to accept the CPO, and verifies the ability of the buyer to pay and the seller to deliver the goods. See Walker at col. 10, lines 8-16.

The central controller reviews the CPO for clarity or unclear terms, such as from a typographical error (Walker at col. 18, lines 8-14). However, the review is one-sided. The CPO created by the buyer is reviewed, but the content of the CPO is not compared with the content of a document sent to the buyer by the seller. Also, the central controller sends purchase confirmation to the seller and to the buyer (Walker at col. 20, lines 2-4). However, the purchase confirmation is merely confirmation that a seller has accepted the CPO of a buyer and that both parties are able to perform the contract requirements. In contrast, the present invention provides confirmation of the correctness of the contents of a document prepared by the buyer by comparing the document with the contents of delivery vouchers prepared by the seller. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Independent claims 7, 15, 17, 25-29, and 34, as amended, recite language similar to that of claim 1. Claim 7 recites "making notarization documents for each of

one or more buyer records, based on seller records sent from said buyer ... confirming by said seller whether the contents of said seller records are in agreement with the contents of records sent according to said sending means; a witness having a notarization authority and certifying that said documents are accurate, when said substantive agreement is confirmed ...”

Claim 15 recites “making notarization documents for each of one or more seller records based on seller records sent from a seller ... confirming by said buyer whether the contents of said buyer record are in agreement with the contents of said documents sent according to said sending means; a witness certifying that said documents are accurate, when said substantive agreement is confirmed ...”

Claim 17 recites “making notarization documents for each of one or more seller records based on seller records sent from a seller ... confirming by the seller whether the contents of said seller record are in agreement with the contents of said documents sent according to said sending means; a witness certifying that said documents are correct, when substantive agreement between said documents and seller record is confirmed ...”

Claim 25 recites “making confirmatory documents for each of one or more seller records, based on a seller record sent from a seller ... confirming by said seller whether the contents of said seller record are in agreement with the contents of said documents sent according to said sending to a witness; confirming by the witness, when confirming substantive agreement according to confirming by said seller, that said documents are accurate ...”

Claim 26 recites “making notarization documents for each of one or more seller records, based on a seller record sent from a seller ... confirming by said seller whether the contents of said seller record are in agreement with the contents of said documents sent according to said sending to a notarization authority; notarizing by a witness that said documents are accurate ... when said substantive agreement is confirmed ...”

Claim 27 recites “making, for each of one or more seller records, a confirmatory document, based on a seller record sent from a seller ... confirming by said seller whether the contents of said seller record are in agreement with the contents of said documents sent according to said sending to a witness; confirming by the witness that said documents are accurate ... when said substantive agreement is confirmed ...”

Claim 28 recites “making, for each of one or more seller records, a notarization document, based on a seller record sent from a seller ... confirming by said seller

whether the contents of said seller record and the contents of said documents sent according to said sending to a notarization authority are in agreement; notarizing by a witness that said documents are accurate ... when said substantive agreement is confirmed ...”

Claim 29 recites “making document data ... confirming the contents of said document data; and ... performing notarization of said document data.”

Claim 34 recites “making a detailed statement of a payment object and sending a payment request; and ... comparing a detailed payment statement transmitted according to said payment request means with a seller-side sales record.”

Therefore, for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claim 1, it is submitted that claims 7, 15, 17, 25-29, and 34 patentably distinguish over the prior art.

As for the dependent claims, the dependent claims depend from the above-discussed independent claims and are patentable over the prior art for the reasons discussed above.

#### **New Claim**

Claim 35 is newly added with this response to alternatively define the present invention. Claim 35 recites “creating a payment document by a buyer based upon one or more vouchers sent to the buyer by a seller; sending the payment document to a witness; sending the payment document from the witness to the seller; confirming contents of the payment document by the seller by comparing the contents of the payment document with the contents of the vouchers; certifying and registering the payment document by the witness when the witness receives confirmation of the contents of the payment document from the seller ...” These features are not taught suggested by the cited reference. Thus, for at least the reasons presented above, Applicant submits claim 35 patentably distinguishes over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the new claims.

#### **SUMMARY**

It is submitted that Walker does not teach the present claimed invention. Thus, claims 1-35 are deemed to be in a condition suitable for allowance. Reconsideration of the claims and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Finally, if there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 9/10/01

By: C. Joan Gilsdorf  
Christine Joan Gilsdorf  
Registration No. 43,635

Suite 500  
700 Eleventh St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
(202) 434-1500

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 16 through line 24 with the following paragraph.

On the other hand, with the popularization of the internet, the construction of EDI-implemented (electronic data [exchange] interchange) information exchange systems is being tested in all functional disciplines. It is anticipated that use of the system contemplated by the present invention will, particularly as between companies, facilitate more efficient account settlement processing and distribution in complex distribution channels.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 2 through line 7 with the following paragraph.

Utilizing EDI (electronic data [exchange] interchange), the present invention provides a Witness system that ensures information safety, and further provides account settlement processes making use of said Witness system, in order to perform efficient account settlement processing and distribution.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 11 through line 21 with the following paragraph.

A notarization authority (1) receives details prepared by a [seller] buyer based, among other things, on delivery vouchers, (2) transmits these details to the seller, and (3) solicits from the seller confirmation that substantive details are in agreement with the content of the delivery vouchers. The Witness receives notification that the seller confirms substantive agreement, whereupon the Witness certifies the aforesaid details as correct documents and confirms said details to the aforesaid buyer and seller.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 24 through page 13, line 7 with the following paragraph.

The Witness server [8] 9 comprises: Delivery detail table 20, which preserves in memory documentation relating, by way of illustration, to delivery vouchers confirmed by monitoring system PC 9; payment terms table 21, which is described hereinafter; and detail group table 22. The above-mentioned computers 5 and 6 can access directly the monitoring system [8] 9 and can refer, illustratively, to the aforesaid confirmation documents.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 15 through page 14, line 3 with the following paragraph.

As disclosed in Fig. 3, the buying company's computer 5 executes requests for confirmation (process J) and executes administrative processing (process K). The aforesaid processes are performed using database 5a and library database 5b (in computer 5). Library interface [5] 5c is used in this case. Similarly, the selling company's computer 6 executes data confirmation requests (process L) and administrative processing (process M). These processes are performed using database 6a (in computer 6) and library database 6b, via library interface 6c. The dotted portions in Fig. 3 represent a corporate client library, which functions, by way of illustration, as an interface for connecting to a network.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 19 through page 17, line 18 with the following paragraph.

As Fig. 9 illustrates, store A, the selling company 2, delivers to supermarket B, the buying company 1, certain foodstuffs and, at that time, sends to supermarket B a delivery voucher (or, alternatively, tenders the voucher with the goods). Computer 5 waits for input of the delivery voucher (step 1, hereinafter "S1", is N (no)), and, when the delivery voucher is entered (S1 is Y (yes)), the system performs input processing of the voucher information. As the example presented in Fig. 9 shows, buyer company 1 (supermarket B) produces the aforesaid delivery voucher data as confirmation document X1. Included in this confirmation document X1 are, illustratively, deliverer's name (selling company 1), delivery date, description of delivered goods, and delivered price. The following information is illustrative of that which is reflected in the confirmation document: The aforesaid deliverer is store A; the delivery date is February



10, 1998; the delivered goods consist of tuna; and the delivered price is [1,5000] 15,000 yen. This confirmation document X1 is transmitted (S3) from buyer company 1 to the Witness 3 (see Fig. 9(1)). Buying company's computer 5 thereafter waits for a response with respect to the aforesaid transmitted data (S4).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 19 through page 18, line 6 with the following paragraph.

Fig. [12] 11 presents a flowchart describing the processes performed by selling company's computer 6. The Witness PC 9 waits for the data input from the aforesaid computer 5 (S5 is N (no)), and, when the input is available (S5 is Y (yes)), confirms the content of the input data (S6) and, where, for example, the data supplied to the monitor PC 9 correspond to the above described confirmation document X1, said confirmation document X1 is registered in detail table 20, described above (S7) (see Fig. 9(2)). Confirmation document X1 is then output, as is, to selling company's computer 6 (S8).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 7 through line 25 with the following paragraph.

Fig. 12 is a flowchart describing the process that selling company's computer 6 performs. As described above, computer 6 waits for the confirmation document X1 input sent from the Witness PC 9 (S9 is N (no)), and, when confirmation document X1 is input (S9 is Y (yes)), compares confirmation document X1 with the contents of the delivery voucher that it previously sent (or tendered with delivery) (S10). It also checks [to] for the presence of errors in the contents of the delivery voucher. As noted above, it is selling company 2 that performs this error-checking task. A "buying company" with whom selling company 2 places its goods is, however, not strictly limited to a specific company (the aforesaid buying company 1). Accordingly, when undertaking the above-described error-checking task, selling company 2 presses the confirmation request button on the computer 6 start menu (see Fig. 7) and displays the confirmation data list screen shown in Fig. 13.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 21 through page 20, line 4 with the following paragraph.

If, on the other hand, it is determined that the aforesaid delivery voucher, or similar document, and the confirmation document X1 differ substantively (S11 is N (no)), selling company 2 presses NG button 41b, shown in Fig. 14, and produces the display disclosed in [the same figure] Fig. 15. Specifically, selling company 2 in this case describes the reason for the NG condition (S14), presses OK button 41, shown in Fig. 14, and sends a NG response to the Witness PC 9 (S15).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 19 through page 22, line 4 with the following paragraph.

Specifically[.], when the Witness 3 has a "confirmation completed" input from selling company 2, it transmits to buying company 1 and selling company 2 verification-completed confirmation documents A and B, relating, for example, to the above-mentioned confirmation documents X1 and X2 (see Fig. 9(6)). The information thus transmitted from the Witness 3 is confirmed by both buying company 1 and selling company 2 and serves to verify that there is no substantive error in a confirmation document based, for example, on a delivery voucher.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 9 through page 20, line 23 with the following paragraph.

To refer in this state to data that have been confirmed and registered in the receipt detail table 20, the user presses the confirmed data list button 7c, thereby shifting the display from the start menu configuration to the confirmed data screen represented in Fig. 16. This confirmed data list screen enables the user to select, from among several customers, a customer with which the user has current transactions, such as, by way of illustration[.], "OO Foods Company", "XX Ham Company", or "ABC Company". The user can also specify and select items in classification areas, such as "wholesale", "set-off", "orders", "accounts receivable", "payment corrections", and "contracts". Pushing button 45a, moreover, displays the confirmed data detail screen, shown in Fig. 17.

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Please replace the Abstract beginning at page 75, line 1 through page 76, line 8 with the following Abstract.

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

[The present invention relates to a] A witness system [that takes advantage of] using EDI (electronic data [exchange] interchange) to perform efficient distribution and account settlement [(accounting)] processes between selling and buying companies. [The present invention also provides a system ensuring information safety and offers account settlement (accounting) processes utilizing said witness system.] A buying company['s computer 5] makes documents according[, illustratively,] to delivery [vouchers] or order vouchers, and electronically sends [said] the documents to a selling company['s computer 6] via a notarization authority [7]. The selling company compares the authentication documents [so transmitted] with[, illustratively,] delivery [vouchers] or order vouchers [that] the selling company [itself has] issued, and, after [checking for substantive errors and] determining that the [contents of said] documents are correct, executes a confirmation response [with respect] to the notarization authority. The notarization authority registers [said] the documents in the witness server's [8] receipts detail table [20] and notifies the buying [company] and selling [company] companies that the notarization authority [has] authenticated [(said] the documents[]). This structure [makes possible] enables the making of accurate detailed payment statements when, for example, a detailed payment statement is made or a funds transfer is executed based on confirmed data. Furthermore, [the] checking [of said] the detailed payment statement [by a buying company and a selling company] is made simpler through reference to the [above-described] witness system server [8].

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please **AMEND** the following claims:

1. (ONCE AMENDED)      A witness system, comprising:  
confirmation document making means for making confirmation documents for each of one or more buyer [record] records, based on a seller record, or records, sent from a seller[,];

sending means for sending to the witness documents prepared according to said confirmation document making means, and for sending said documents from said witness to said seller[.];

confirmation means for [confirmation] confirming by said seller that the content of said seller record, or records, is in agreement with the content of said documents sent according to said sending means[.];

a witness [to confirm] confirming that said documents are accurate, when said agreement is confirmed according to said confirmation means[.]; and

memory means for storing in memory documents confirmed by said witness.

7. (ONCE AMENDED) An account settlement system, comprising:

notarization document making means for making notarization documents for [said] each of one or more buyer [record] records, based on seller records sent from [said] a buyer[.];

sending means for sending to a notarization authority documents made according to said notarization document making means, and for sending said documents from said notarization authority to [said] a seller[.];

confirmation means for confirming by [which] said seller [confirms] whether the contents of said seller records are in agreement with the contents of records sent according to said sending means[.];

a witness [that includes] having a notarization authority and certifying [that certifies the fact] that said documents are accurate, when said substantive agreement is confirmed according to said confirmation means;

memory means for storing in memory documents notarized by said witness[.];

detailed payment statement making means for making, with reference to said notarization documents stored in memory according to said memory means, a detailed payment statement, upon which payment to said seller by said buyer is to be based[.];

funds transfer request means for requesting a transfer of funds based on a detailed payment statement made according to said detailed payment statement making means[.]; and

notification means for notifying said witness of a transfer of funds, when funds are transferred to said seller based on a funds transfer request according to said funds transfer request means.

15. (ONCE AMENDED) An account settlement system utilizing a witness system, comprising:

notarization document making means for making notarization documents for each of one or more [said] seller [record] records based on seller records sent from [the] a seller[.];

sending means for sending to a notarization authority documents made according to said notarization document making means, and for sending said documents from said notarization authority to [said] a buyer[.];

confirmation means for [confirmation] confirming by said buyer [as to] whether the contents of said buyer record are in agreement with the contents of said documents sent according to said sending means[.];

a witness [to certify] certifying that said documents are accurate, when said substantive agreement is confirmed according to said confirmation means[.];

memory means for storing in memory documents notarized by said witness[.];

detailed payment statement making means for making, by said buyer[,]  
with reference to said documents stored in memory according to said memory means, a detailed payment statement upon which payment by the buyer to the seller is based[.];  
and

request means for requesting a financial institution to issue a check to said buyer, based on a detailed payment statement made according to said detailed payment statement making means.

17. (ONCE AMENDED) An account settlement system utilizing a witness system, comprising:

notarization document making means for making notarization documents for [said] each of one or more seller [record] records, based on seller records sent from [the] a seller[.];

sending means for sending to a notarization authority documents made according to said notarization document making means, and for sending said documents from said notarization authority to the seller[.];

confirmation means for confirming by the seller [to confirm] whether the contents of said seller record are in agreement with the contents of said documents sent according to said sending means[.];

a witness [to certify] certifying that said documents are correct, when substantive agreement between said documents and seller record is confirmed according to said confirmation means[.];

memory means for storing in memory documents notarized by said witness[.];

detailed payment statement making means for making, with reference to said documents stored in memory according to said memory means, a detailed payment statement upon which is based payment by said buyer to said seller[.]; and

request means for requesting a financial institution to issue a note to said buyer.

25. (ONCE AMENDED) A method for document confirmation by a witness system, comprising:

[a confirmatory document making process for] making confirmatory documents for [said] each of one or more seller [record] records, based on a seller record sent from a seller[.];

[a sending process for] sending to a witness documents made according to said confirmatory document, and for sending said documents from said witness to said seller[.];

[a confirmation process whereby] confirming by said seller [confirms] whether the contents of said seller record are in agreement with the contents of said documents sent according to said sending [process,] to a witness;

[a notification process whereby a] confirming by the witness, when confirming substantive agreement according to said confirming by said seller, [confirmation process, confirms] that said documents are accurate and notifies said buyer and said seller of said confirmation[.]; and

[a memory process whereby] storing said confirmed documents [are stored] in memory.

26. (ONCE AMENDED) An account settlement method utilizing a witness system, comprising:

[a notarization document making process to make] making notarization documents for [said] each of one or more seller [record] records, based on a seller record sent from a seller[.];

[a sending [process to send] to a notarization authority documents made according to said making notarization [document] documents [making process,];

[a confirmation process whereby] confirming by said seller [confirms] whether the contents of said seller record are in agreement with the contents of said documents sent according to said sending [process,] to a notarization authority;

[a notification process whereby] notarizing by a witness [notarizes] that said documents are accurate and [notifies said] notifying a buyer and said seller of said notarization, when said substantive agreement is confirmed according to said [confirmation process,] confirming by said seller;

[a memory process for] storing in memory said notarized documents[.];

[a detailed payment making process for] making, with reference to said stored notarization documents [stored in memory according to said memory process], a detailed payment statement upon which is based payment by said buyer to said seller[.]; and

[a funds transfer request process for] requesting the transfer of funds to said seller, based on [a] the detailed payment statement [made according to said detailed payment statement making process].

27. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer-readable memory medium containing a program causing a computer to execute [the] document confirmation processes performed by a witness system, and comprising a process of:

[a confirmatory document making process to make] making, for each [said] of one or more seller [record] records a confirmatory document, based on a seller record sent from a seller[.];

[a sending, [process to send] to a witness, documents made according to said making a confirmatory document [making process], and [for] sending said documents to [said] a buyer and said seller[.];

[a confirmation process whereby] confirming by said seller [confirms] whether the contents of said seller record are in agreement with the contents of said documents sent according to said sending [process,] to a witness;

[a notification process whereby a] confirming by the witness [confirms] that said documents are accurate and [notifies] notifying said buyer and said seller of said confirmation, when said substantive agreement is confirmed according to said [confirmation process,] confirming by said seller; and

[a memory process for] storing in a memory said confirmed documents.

28. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer-readable memory medium containing a program [to cause] causing a computer to execute an account settlement process using a witness system, and comprising a process of:

[a notarization document making process for] making, for [said] each of one or more seller [record] records, a notarization document, based on a seller record sent from a seller[.];

[a sending process for] sending to a notarization authority documents made according to said making a notarization document [making process], and [for] sending said documents from said notarization authority to said seller[.];

[a confirmation process whereby] confirming by said seller [confirms] whether the contents of said seller record and the contents of said documents sent according to said sending to a notarization authority [process] are in agreement[.];

[a notification process whereby] notarizing by a witness [notarizes the fact] that said documents are accurate and [notifies said] notifying a buyer and said seller of said notification, when said substantive agreement is confirmed according to said [confirmation process,] confirming by said seller;

[a memory process for] storing in a memory said notarized documents[.];

[a detailed payment statement making process for] making, with reference to said stored notarization documents [stored in a memory according to said memory process], a detailed payment statement upon which is based payment by said buyer to said seller[.]; and

[a funds transfer request process for] requesting that funds be transferred to said seller, based on [a] the detailed payment statement [make according to said detailed payment statement making process].



29. (ONCE AMENDED) A witness system, comprising:  
first computing means for making document data[,];  
second computing means for confirming the contents of said document data[,]; and  
third computing means for storing in memory said confirmed document data, or for performing notarization of said document data.

30. (ONCE AMENDED) A witness system according to claim 29, wherein  
said storing in a memory and substantive confirmation of document data are executed according to a screen display of said [calculating] third computing means.

34. (ONCE AMENDED) An account settlement system, comprising:  
payment request means for making a detailed statement of a payment object and [for] sending a payment request[,]; and  
comparison means for comparing a detailed payment statement transmitted according to said payment request means with a seller-side sales record.

Please **ADD** the following new claim:

35. (NEW) A method of confirming document data, comprising:  
creating a payment document by a buyer based upon one or more vouchers sent to the buyer by a seller;  
sending the payment document to a witness;  
sending the payment document from the witness to the seller;  
confirming contents of the payment document by the seller by comparing the contents of the payment document with the contents of the vouchers;  
certifying and registering the payment document by the witness when the witness receives confirmation of the contents of the payment document from the seller;  
and  
storing the payment document.